



Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE **108th** CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2004

Senate

RECOGNIZING GONZALO MARTINEZ'S DECADE OF SERVICE TO DELAWARE

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I rise today in recognition of Gonzalo Martinez for his ten years of service to Delaware. Gonzalo will be leaving us shortly to move to Florida. His leadership and dedication over the years have won him the respect and gratitude of our entire State. He has been, and remains, a trusted friend.

Gonzalo was born in Santiago, Chile. He graduated from the University of Chile's School of Law in 1964, and moved to Washington, DC, in 1966 to work as a bilingual attorney in the legal department of the Inter-American Development Bank. There, he worked toward the bank's goal of fostering the economic and social development of Latin-America and the Caribbean.

While visiting a friend in Delaware in the early 1980s, Gonzalo fell in love with a house he saw here. He bought the house, and while continuing to work in Washington, he spent much of his spare time remodeling his home in Delaware. After 23 years of hard work at the bank, Gonzalo retired and moved to his beloved home in the first State. Upon his arrival in Delaware, Gonzalo became an active member of the Sussex County community.

When Gonzalo moved to Delaware, he was approached by the Sussex Arts Council to help fill the "black hole" in Sussex County's Hispanic community. He saw a

desperate need for community centers, health programs and other services. For years, Gonzalo tried to work with agencies and programs. When it became apparent that they were unwilling to change and meet the emerging needs of the growing Hispanic community, Gonzalo finally partnered with other community advocates to create new institutions.

Gonzalo Martinez is a founding Board Member and a volunteer at El Centro Cultural, La Esperanza Community Center, Primeros Pasos Child Care Center, and La Red Health Center. Gonzalo believes that through the arts we can create social justice. He founded El Centro Cultural and The Hispanic Festival, which attract thousands of people each year. La Esperanza Community Center focuses on immigration services, comprehensive pre- and post-natal care, helping domestic violence victims, English and citizenship classes, and other general translation and interpretation services. Primeros Pasos provides safe child-care and early childhood education to approximately 50 children a year.

Gonzalo is not afraid to take risks to change the status quo and to prove how State government and non-profit organizations can work together to provide more efficient, cost-effective, and culturally appropriate services in the community.

During my governorship, I had the opportunity to appoint Gonzalo to three

councils. When I re-established the Governor's Council on Hispanic Affairs in February of 1995, I appointed Gonzalo to the council. The goal of the council is to advise the Governor and Secretary of Health and Social Services on means to improve the delivery of services to the Hispanic community in Delaware.

In June of 1995, I also named Gonzalo to the Delaware State Arts Council. As a member of the State Council, Gonzalo contributed to the evaluation of grant applications and actively participated in policy discussions. Finally, I appointed Gonzalo to the Neighborhood Assistance Act Advisory Council in August of 2000. The Neighborhood Assistance Act Advisory Council was established to provide guidance and recommendations to the Director of the Economic Development Office and the Tax Appeal Board. Its purpose is to establish program priorities and to determine the impoverished areas that are in need of financial assistance.

More recently, in my first term as a U.S. Senator, Gonzalo Martinez has served on my National Parks Committee, a committee established in 2003 to recommend the best possible location for a National Park Unit here in Delaware.

I respect and admire Gonzalo for his dedication, his passion, and most of all, for his humility. He never takes credit for the accomplishments of the organizations. Instead of trying to build one large organization to meet all of the needs, Gonzalo has partnered with others who have expertise in certain areas to create organizations to meet a specific need. While the partners are all different, and the organizations have different missions, the thing they have in common is Gonzalo

Martinez. He sees not only what could be, but what should be.

Through Gonzalo's tireless efforts, he has made a profound difference in the lives of thousands and enhanced the quality of life for an entire State. Upon his departure, he will leave behind a legacy of commitment to public service for both our children and grandchildren and for the generations that will follow. I thank him for the friendship that we share, and I congratulate him on a remarkable second career. I wish him only the very best in all that lies ahead.